



# City Administrator's Monthly Report

July 2010

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

## Community Events

### *Concerts in the Park*

Enjoy free musical entertainment every Thursday, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Chase Palm Park at 236 East Cabrillo Boulevard. For a list of musical performers and a concert schedule, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Concerts](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Concerts).

### *Old Spanish Days Fiesta*

Santa Barbara celebrates its Spanish and Mexican heritage during this annual event from Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. For a list of times and locations of Fiesta events, visit: [www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org](http://www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org).

### *Fiesta Historical Parade*

Enjoy one of the largest equestrian parades in the country on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at Noon. The parade starts at State and Cabrillo Streets and ends at State and Sola Streets.

### *80<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Fiesta Parade*

The City is hosting this parade on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The parade starts at State and Victoria Streets and ends at State and Ortega Streets.

## Flags on State Street

### *Santa Barbara Zoo*

July 6<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>American Institute of Architects</b>       | July 16 <sup>th</sup> through 26 <sup>th</sup>       |
| <b>Surgical Eye Expeditions International</b> | July 26 <sup>th</sup> through August 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| <b>Fiesta</b>                                 | August 2 <sup>nd</sup> through 9 <sup>th</sup>       |

## City Administrator's Office

**City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.** Last month, the City Council unanimously adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2011. The budget includes a total operating budget of \$246.9 million and a capital budget totaling \$26.8 million. The General Fund operating budget is \$101.6 million, providing funding for police, fire, parks, recreation, library, community development, and administrative services. If no corrective actions were taken, the City faced an estimated \$8.9 million deficit in the fiscal year that began this month. This represents approximately 9% of the General Fund operating budget. The budget was balanced with a combination of 1) Department budget reductions and enhanced revenues; 2) structural budget changes; 3) reduced funding to community organizations; and 4) reductions in employee salary and benefits.

To help close the budget deficit, Managers, Supervisors, and General and Confidential Employees, committed to labor concessions equivalent to a 6% to 8.5% salary reduction. These concessions include cost savings from an employee furlough or mandatory leave without pay. As a result, administrative offices and non-emergency facilities will close to the public over the December holiday and three other dates throughout the year.

While labor agreements with the Police Officers Association and the Police Management Association expired last month, an agreement has not been reached for a salary and benefits package. The City is also in discussions with the Firefighters Association on potential reductions in salary and benefit costs, including the cancellation of a planned 3% salary increase this month.

Contingent on achieving labor concessions with the remaining bargaining units, Council added \$1.1 million back to the budget to provide funding for four police officer positions, one fire captain position, park restroom maintenance, library materials, Ortega Pool Recreation Summer Swim, Planning Commission stipends, Santa Barbara Channels, New Beginnings, and the City's reserves. The implementation of these items will be delayed or cancelled if labor concessions are not fully realized.

To review specific details about the City's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Economic Stimulus Funding.** The City applied for and has successfully been granted funds for programs and projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This act was passed by President Barack Obama to stimulate the economy. The ARRA disburses \$787 billion to 28 different federal agencies and provides tax relief, state and local government funding and funding for social programs. The City plans to use the stimulus funds to support its environmental, community development and housing, energy, public safety, and transportation

needs. To view the programs and projects in these funding areas, visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***Taking Precautions During Hot Weather.*** There are precautions that residents should take during hot weather to prevent serious health issues, especially seniors, infants and young children, and people with chronic health conditions. To prevent overheating, use cool compresses, misting, showers, and baths. Residents should stay hydrated by drinking plenty of non-alcoholic liquids. During hot weather, plan on being less active during the hottest part of the day, reduce strenuous activities, and wear lightweight and light-colored clothing. If a person has a rapid pulse or body temperature above 102 degrees, becomes unconscious, or feels delirious, call 9-1-1. For more information on staying healthy during hot weather visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: [www.cdc.gov/Features/ExtremeHeat/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ExtremeHeat/).

## Administrative Services Department

***Information at Your Fingertips.*** Over 4,800 people use the City website, [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov), everyday to access valuable information and resources. There is a section on the website dedicated to assisting both new and long-time residents in finding popular City services, forms and handouts, and information about properties in their neighborhoods. For example, residents can easily access real-time information from the City's Permit Plan database. Information from this database include property details, such as size and slope zone, as well as building, zoning, and development project permits. To access this valuable tool, click on the Resident's tab at the top of the page, and then click on the Quick Link called "Parcel Lookup." A query can be simply conducted by entering a parcel number or street address for a specific property. If the entire address is unknown, then a partial address can be entered. This is a popular and useful tool to research information about local plots of land; any information that is specific to the owner of that property is not included in this database.

## Airport Department

***Project Impacts Airline Terminal Traffic.*** Last month, the Goleta Sanitary District began a project to install a new sewer main between James Fowler Road and Hollister Avenue. Construction is taking place on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. and will continue until December or January when the project is completed. Construction is affecting access to the Airline Terminal, and drivers are subject to delays on South Fairview Avenue. Since traffic is normally heavy on this stretch of roadway, drivers who are trying to get to Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) Terminal via Fairview are encouraged to take alternative routes. To avoid delays when traveling on Highway 101 from the south, passengers and other visitors to the Airline Terminal should use Highway 217, and then take the Sandspit Road exit onto Moffett Place. Complimentary airport parking shuttle travel time to the Airline Terminal will be affected by construction, so passengers are advised to arrive two hours prior to their flight departure time if they plan on using Long Term Parking Lot 2 off Hollister Avenue. For more information, visit SBA's website at: [www.flysba.com](http://www.flysba.com).

***June Passenger Count Jumps Up.*** In June, 73,735 airline passengers were served at Santa Barbara Airport, an increase of 5.9% compared to 69,602 passengers in June 2009. Comparatively, seat capacity was up 4% month over month. The new Frontier Airlines service

to Denver had an 82% average load factor for the month. The total overall passenger count for the first six months of 2010 is down half a percentage point.

## Community Development Department

**Planning Commission Update.** This month, the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will make decisions on several proposals. One proposal is to enclose a 450-square foot roofed display area at 402 South Hope Street. The business, Santa Barbara Auto Group, has an unenclosed area adjacent to the existing building that is currently being used to display vehicles.

Another proposal is to construct a 53-unit residential rental project for very low and low-income households at 512 Bath Street. Last month, this project was approved by the Staff Hearing Officer, but its approval was suspended by the Planning Commission. The Commission will review the proposal and make its final decision.

## Finance Department

**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT).** Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), a major General Fund revenue source for the City, is a tax imposed on guests for staying in any hotel, inn, motel, short-term rental property, or other commercial lodging establishment for 30 days or less. TOT showed positive growth again in May, up 6% over May 2009, and with one less weekend day in the month. TOT from the hotels only was up 4.2%, which excludes vacation rentals. The growth is encouraging as summer begins, but the growth was built on a 15.5% decline in May 2009. The Fiscal Year 2010 year-end estimate for TOT is \$11,157,000 and reflects an expected decline of 7.3% for the fiscal year.

**Sales Tax.** Sales tax for the quarter that ended on March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$3,838,812, up only slightly at 0.4% over the March quarter last year. The results were in line with the City's revised estimate which was forecast flat, or 0% growth. This is the first quarter with positive growth in over two years since December 2008. Statewide, sales tax was up 0.5% for the quarter. The City's year-end estimate assumes 0% growth in the June quarter and a 6.6% decline for the fiscal year in total. Year-to-date, sales tax is down 7.4% .

## Fire Department

**Fire Safe Barbeque Season.** Many residents are enjoying the warm weather by barbequing outdoors with friends and family. The Fire Department would like the community to enjoy the summer season safely by taking precautions while using their barbeques. Before grilling, barbeques should be checked to make sure that they are in good working order. Also, propane tanks should never be overfilled. Barbeques should be lit with a long match or mechanical lighter and stationed away from sheds, fences, overhanging branches, roof eaves, deck railings, and sidings. After using a barbeque grill, it should be left to cool before it is moved to a different location to be stored. Finally, hot coals should be disposed of properly by being doused with water and making sure that the fire is completely out.

**Community Fuels Hazard Reduction Grant.** Last month, the Fire Department was awarded a \$228,000 Community Fuel Hazard Reduction Grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Fuel reduction is often needed to protect natural and personal resources, including homes. The goal is to eliminate unnaturally large amounts of fuel by removing vegetation, which will ultimately reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires. The grant will help fund the effort to reduce sources of fuel in specific areas and provide public education to residents. In addition, the project will also outline a program for ongoing maintenance of the areas that are treated.

**Wildland Fire Training.** Last month, 18 City firefighters participated in live firefighter training with firefighters from the Los Padres National Forest. This annual training took place at Fort Hunter Liggett, a military installation in Southern Monterey County. City firefighters, along with other firefighters from several agencies throughout California, learned techniques and procedures in wildfire control from credited instructors. City firefighters consider this training to be valuable, especially since Santa Barbara has a history of devastating wildfires.

## Library Department

**Central and Eastside Libraries Closed on Mondays.** Patrons of the Santa Barbara Public Library System should be aware of a new schedule due to reductions to its operating budget. The Central and Eastside Libraries will be closed on Mondays. The library in Goleta will remain open on Mondays, thanks to funding from the *Friends of the Goleta Valley Library*. To view a full listing of hours for all branches of the Santa Barbara Public Library System, visit: [www.SBPLibrary.org](http://www.SBPLibrary.org).

**Borders Benefit for Goleta Library.** The Goleta Public Library and *Borders* bookstore recently teamed up for the 2010 Borders Marketplace Spring Drive. With each of their purchases, Borders customers were asked if they were interested in buying a book to be donated to the Goleta Library. This book drive resulted in the purchase of more than 550 books that will be added to the library's stock. The books have a total retail value of approximately \$6,000.

**Blowout Book Sale at Central.** Last month, a blowout sale of donated books, CDs and other media were sold at the Central Library. These materials were sold for 25 cents to two dollars. Customers who purchased a *Friends of the Santa Barbara Library* canvas book bag for \$20 could fill the bag with as many sale items as possible for free. During the nine-day sale, about \$5,000 was raised for the Central Library.

## Parks and Recreation

**Concerts in the Park.** The City's popular *Concerts in the Park* series began this month and will continue every Thursday through August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Chase Palm Park. This is the City's 12<sup>th</sup> year to hold *Concerts in the Park*, which attracts over 45,000 Santa Barbara County residents. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring blankets and food and enjoy music, which ranges from contemporary jazz to western swing. For more information on music

performers and the concert schedule, call 897-1946 or visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Concerts](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Concerts).

**Old Spanish Days Fiesta.** The community will celebrate its Spanish and Mexican heritage during *Old Spanish Days Fiesta* from Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Residents and visitors can enjoy cultural food during a variety of events that will be held throughout the community. The City will be hosting the Children's Fiesta Parade on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., in which approximately 2,500 children in cultural attire will travel down State Street in hand-decorated floats, carts, and wagons. The parade will proceed down State Street from Victoria to Ortega Streets. The City is currently looking for parade participants and will accept the first 100 applicants. Volunteers are also needed to work that day. To participate in the parade or get more information about volunteering, contact the Children's Fiesta Parade Headquarters at 564-5495 or visit the Cabrillo Bathhouse at 1118 East Cabrillo Boulevard on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For a list of times and locations of all events, visit: [www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org](http://www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org).

**Wading Pools Open for Summer.** Thanks to a grant from the *Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise*, the West Beach Pool is now open on weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. through Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Oak Park Wading Pool has been repaired and is now open through August 20<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The City's wading pools are staffed by City lifeguards, but children under seven years old must be accompanied by an adult. For more information on swim programs and pool hours, call 966-6110.

**Youth Apprenticeship Program in Full Swing.** The City's Youth Apprenticeship Program expands educational opportunities for youth by providing them with job training and temporary employment to increase their potential for future employability. This summer, so far 29 participants have been assigned to intern at five City Departments. This number is expected to increase during the year to a projected 80 participants. In addition, the City is collaborating with the County Workforce Investment Board to provide low-income, at-risk, and disabled youth an opportunity to also work in different City Departments. The Youth Apprenticeship Program started in 1979 and is expanding every year. For more information about the program, contact the City's Neighborhood and Outreach Services Senior Supervisor Antonio Velásquez at 963-7567.

**Construction to Begin on Mission Creek Restoration Project.** This month, the City will begin construction of a creek restoration and sewer line replacement project on Mission Creek, which is located downstream of the Tallant Road Bridge in Oak Park. To improve habitat for the endangered steelhead trout and reduce stream bank erosion, the project will remove concrete and reconstruct the creek bed and banks. The project will also relocate a sewer main line to reduce the risk of sewage spills into the creek, and install 1,500 native plants and trees to improve wildlife habitat along Mission Creek. A majority of this project is funded by grants from the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**Henry Bergmann Volleyball Court Dedication.** This past October, beach volleyball legend and local resident Harry Bergmann passed away. This month, Henry's friends dedicated a volleyball court at East Beach in his name. This dedication was the official start of a fundraising campaign by the *Friends of East Beach Association*, which is a new, non-profit organization that was formed to upgrade the quality of East Beach volleyball courts. The total



cost of this project is expected to be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. For more information about this fundraising effort and how to participate, call 680-6139 or visit the *Friends of East Beach Association* website at: [www.foeba.org](http://www.foeba.org).

***Sable the Sewage-Sniffing Dog Visits Santa Barbara.*** Last month, Sable the Sewage-Sniffing Dog visited Santa Barbara to investigate storm drains for sources of human waste. Sable is the first dog in the world to be scent-trained to track sources of human waste in storm drains. When sewage enters the storm drain system due to aging infrastructure or illicit connections, polluted water flows directly to the creeks and ocean. This leads to poor water quality and beach closures. Sable and his trainer worked alongside City staff and UCSB scientists to test Sable's results against DNA-based lab tests on water collected at the same times and locations. While the results have not been finalized, the City has already repaired one sewer line, where Sable detected sewage entering a storm drain pipe. Sable's visit was made possible by a grant from the Water Environment Research Foundation.

## Police Department

***PAL Park Dedication.*** Last month, a project that was co-sponsored by the Police Activities League (PAL) and the City's Parks and Recreation Department was completed. Junior and senior high school students and members of the Leadership Club of La Cumbre Middle School designed a colorful mosaic of tile artwork at MacKenzie Park. The art piece was centered on the theme of "Peace, Love, One People, One Earth." Local artist Tami Zweig volunteered her time to guide students with the intricate design of the artwork. The project, which now hangs adjacent to the Children's Playground area, took almost three months to complete. PAL and the Kiwanis Club donated all of the art materials that were needed to create this unique piece of art. The project was an interactive, creative, and overall positive experience for local youth.

***Bearcat Armored Vehicle to Assist SWAT and Crisis Negotiators.*** The Police Department has attained an armored vehicle to allow its Special Weapons and Tactics and Crisis Negotiating Response Teams to quickly respond to high-risk incidents. The 2010 Lenco Bearcat is valued at more than \$240,000 and was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Bearcat is fully enclosed with steel armor, protected from many explosive devices, and weighs 18,000 pounds. This vehicle will be used to save lives, protect officers and the public, and resolve dangerous situations.

***Graffiti Control.*** In response to a rise in graffiti crime, the Police Department increased patrols in problem areas. Last month, two prolific taggers were arrested and found in possession of graffiti materials including spray paint, heavy-duty permanent markers, and tagging monikers on most of their personal belongings. The Police urge property owners to take simple precautions to safeguard their property against graffiti, such as installing bright motion detector lights, protecting back lots with fencing, and painting over graffiti as soon as possible. Residents should call the City's graffiti hotline anytime to report graffiti at 897-2513. Reports should be detailed and include street name, nearest cross street, type and color of structure, and a name and phone number. To report suspicious graffiti activity as it is happening, residents should call 9-1-1.

***Beachside Briefings.*** At the beginning of each shift, patrol officers hold a meeting to conduct assignments, discuss crime trends, and share information about community problems. To



improve problems such as illegal camping and public intoxication, patrol teams have been holding impromptu briefings and enforcement in some beach and waterfront areas. Police officers have issued warnings, written tickets for infractions, made arrests, and have generally promoted a calmer environment near the beach and waterfront. Although these briefings have certainly not solved the area's problems, they have helped to reduce a significant number of common disturbances.

## Public Works Department

**Construction Projects Underway.** The City is currently replacing the street surface on most blocks of State Street from La Cumbre Road south to De la Vina Street and all blocks on De la Vina Street from State Street south to West Alamar Avenue. Construction is being conducted between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The public should be aware that one lane of traffic is being provided in both directions during construction and traffic speed may be reduced. This project is funded by federal economic stimulus funds and will help maintain the City's transportation infrastructure. Work on this project began in mid-June and will continue through this month.

The City just began another project on Alameda Padre Serra (APS) and Mountain Drives, where street surfaces are being reconstructed. Construction on the project takes place between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Streets that are affected are APS from Sycamore Canyon Road, west to Los Olivos Street, and Mountain Drive from Los Olivos Street east to Foothill Road. Area residents may experience traffic detours and construction noise. This project also received funding from the federal economic stimulus program. Construction began this month and is expected to continue through August.

In addition, the City began the Annual Street Pavement Maintenance Project in the Mesa and Harbor areas, which is scheduled for maintenance every five to eight years. During this project, streets will be coated with an asphalt slurry seal. This street maintenance project is primarily funded by state grant funds and Measure D sales tax revenues to support local transportation projects.

For the exact location of these three projects, visit the *Upcoming City Road Maintenance Work Info and Street Map* on the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Waterfront Department

**Overview of 4<sup>th</sup> of July.** The City hosted another successful Fourth of July program this year. Thousands of people gathered on West Beach to watch the 20-minute fireworks display and enjoy live entertainment and food from local vendors. In order to accommodate the crowds, the City placed 800 trash boxes and 400 recycling boxes along the beach, nearby streets, and grassy areas. After the event, City staff cleaned up the beach and waterfront areas. The next day, Marborg reported that over 13 tons of trash debris was collected from beach dumpsters. The City appreciates the public's cooperation in helping to keep the area beautiful and clean after such a large event.

**2010 Harbor and Seafood Festival.** The City and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum are hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

The free festival attracts seafood lovers to the Santa Barbara Harbor to taste regional seafood, watch cooking demonstrations, and participate in interactive maritime education. For the second year, the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association will sponsor live performances featuring *Spencer the Gardener* and *Fish and the Seaweeds*. For more information, visit: [www.HarborFestival.org](http://www.HarborFestival.org).